

James Edward Mershon

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the regular session of the Forty-fifth General Assembly, and also during the important extra session of the same assembly. Returning to Newton to resume his law practice he was called to assist the State Highway Commission in suits arising from land owners asking damages when paving was constructed across their farms. In February, 1936, he was appointed by Attorney General O'Connor as an assistant attorney general attached to the Highway Commission with headquarters at Ames. It was while engaged in that work that he met an untimely death through an automobile accident.

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JAMES EDWARD MERSHON was born in Newton, Iowa, September 10, 1864, and died in Des Moines May 18, 1936. Burial was in Masonic Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were James R. and Margaret Ann (Hart) Mershon. The father was a Congregational minister, a graduate of Yale University and an associate of the famous Beecher family, while the mother was descended from a family with literary accomplishments, so the son, James Edward, had home advantages of education and culture. He was graduated from the Law Department of the University of Iowa in 1891 and began the practice of law in Des Moines the same year. He served two terms as city solicitor of Des Moines, 1897 to 1901. He continued in active practice until 1916 when, at nearly the age of fifty-two years, he was chosen one of the four judges of the newly created Municipal Court of Des Moines, the other three being Eskil C. Carlson, Walter Irish, and Joseph E. Meyer. Mr. Mershon was regularly re-elected and served continuously until the election of March, 1936. Being a member of the Municipal Court on its organization and continuing twenty years he is credited with having had much to do with giving it form and direction. He was scholarly, alert of mind, dignified, strict but not harsh, kindly, and just. He had completed plans for re-establishing himself in private practice when death overtook him.

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FRANK WEBSTER MAHIN was born in Muscatine, Iowa, November 6, 1851, and died in Washington, D. C., May 6, 1936. He was a younger brother of John Mahin, their parents being Jacob and Elizabeth Hare Mahin. He obtained his common school education in Muscatine, was a student in Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, attended Harvard University Law School, and later, Columbia University Law School, receiving his degree as bachelor of law from Columbia. He began the practice of law in Muscatine in 1878, continuing it until 1881 when he became editor and manager of the *Clinton Herald*, remaining in that capacity until 1897. From 1890 to 1894 he was postmaster at Clinton. He then entered the consular service representing this country at Reichenberg, Austria, 1898 to 1902; at Nottingham, England, 1902 to 1910; at Amsterdam, Holland, 1910 to 1913, and again from 1915 to 1925, when he retired. He returned to his old home at Muscatine for a time, but in later years was a resident of Washington. Other public

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